

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 NEA-11 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T USNATO 0549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DUTCH BRING UP PHASE LINKAGE QUESTION AGAIN

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: USNATO 430

1. DURING SPC DISCUSSION FEB 1 OF ITS FUTURE WORK PROGRAM, DUTCH REP (BUWALDA) RETURNED TO POINT HE HAD MADE AT LAST MEETING (REFTEL) THAT ALLIES HOULD SOON UNDERTAKE STUDY OF PHASE-LIKAGE QUESTION. SINCE ISSUE CONTAINED POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY IMPLICATIONS, HE PROPOSED THAT SPC ASK MBFR WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE LATTER, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON TWO POINTS: A) TIME REQUIRED FOR WITHDRAWING THOSE FORCES SPECIFIED IN A REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT, AND B) TIME REQUIRED TO SET UP A VERIFICATION SYSTEM TO COVER WITHDRAWALS. SPC COULD DISCUSS POLITICAL DIMENSION OF PROBLEM MORE EFFECTIVELY IF JUDGMENTS ON TECHNICAL AND MILITARY ASPECTS WERE AVAILABLE.

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2. U.S. REP REPLIED THAT A MIND-CLEARING PROCESS TO IDENTIFY TECHNICAL IMPLICATION OF PHASE-LINKAGE COULD BE USEFUL. REQUESTING WORKING GROUP TO DO THIS ALSO SEEMED GOOD IDEA. HE STTRESSED, WHOEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE MUCH BETTER IF WG EXAMINED ALL TYPES

OF TECHNICAL FACTORS WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED THAN FOCUS ON
ANY PRE-DETERMINED SET, SUCH AS TWO PROPOSED BY DUTCH. AS
TO SPC'S BEGINNING STUDY OF PHASE LINKAGE ITSELF, U.S. REP
SAID ISSUE WAS COMPLEX AND WOULD REQUIRE THOUGHTFUL REVIEW IN
CAPITALS. ON PERSONAL BASIS, HE DID NOT THINK WASHINGTON WOULD
BE IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE EARLY GUIDANCE. MEANTIME, PROPOSAL
TO HAVE WG EXPLORE TECHNICAL FACTORS SEEMED BEST FIRST STEP.
SPC AGREED AND DECIDED TO RETURN TO QUESTION IN ABOUT TWO
WEEKS. COMMENT: DURING WG REVIEW OF THIS ISSUE WE WILL SEEK
TO ENSURE THAT PACE OF WORK IS DELIBERATED. WITH ISSUE UNDER REVIEW
IN WG, WE WILL ARGUE THAT SPC CONSIDERATION OF ITS IS
PREMATURE. END COMMENT
RUMSFELD

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